

To the members of the Environment Committee

I am writing to oppose SB 1148 which would permit hunting and killing of black bears in Connecticut.

Black bears are not natural enemies of human beings. They only become dangerous when they are threatened by us or challenged for food. If food is readily made available to them by humans, however, they will continue to invade human spaces. The solution is to limit their access to food from our trash cans and through our carelessness. Killing bears in the woods and forests will not stop the bears who have become habituated to free hand-outs that they can pick up easily from human areas. Only stopping these "hand-outs" will stop the bears who are attracted to the food.

Please don't permit the killing of bears. Please do consider legislation that will persuade citizens not to provide them with free food.

Thank you. Juliet Meyer, Hartford.